

Interim Report for the year ending 31st. December  
1940, by the Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the District Council.  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the Health of the Wayland District for the year ending 31st. December, 1940.

The stress of war, and the movements of populations are still with us; the rationing of essential foodstuffs has added to the difficulties of the population, but there has been no increase of catarrhal illness, of deficiency diseases, or in fact, of any illness during the year; the physical health of the populace seems to be unimpaired and vitality as high as ever.

There has been an increase in the notified cases of Scarlet Fever during the year, but nothing has occurred in the way of an epidemic in any area; it has been a general increase.

The fact of measles and whooping cough having been made notifiable has increased the gross number of notifications of infectious disease, but this is an appearance more than a reality. Attleborough had an epidemic of measles of a mild character for some weeks. Various schemes for the benefit of the people have had their inauguration and more will be heard of them in the report for 1941; I am speaking particularly of our water scheme and of the immunisation of all our juveniles against diphtheria, which are proceeding. There has been an increase in the duties of our Public Health staffs during the year through fresh A.R.P. schemes viz: The Civilian Defence Scheme, the salvage scheme, and the scheme for provision of Public and Communal Shelters. Meat Inspection has also led to a lot of work and during the six months ending 31.12.40. Inspection has been conducted on 365 Beasts, 76 Calves, 802 Pigs, 1875 Sheep making a grand total of 3118 animals, and 5324 lbs. of this total have been condemned as unfit for consumption.

Of the three cases of diphtheria notified during the year two were merely carriers and did not actually suffer from the disease and the other case was an evacuee who was sent from London with the disease on him.

There is little difference in the death rate from Cancer and tubercle, between this year and last, and the number of cases of pneumonia notified was 12 as against 9 for the previous year.

It is difficult to forecast the results of another winters' rationing of fats, particularly in the young growing people and of the general shortage of foodstuffs, but one can at least say that no harm has so far resulted from the general food shortage. Infants and adolescents should have the full benefit of any increase that can be made if our production or imports of essentials improve. The adults and particularly the older of us will probably benefit by the reduction rather than suffer as a result of it.

I think I can reassure you Ladies and Gentlemen that so far, the war conditions have impaired our morale and our nutrition very little, and that our population is still well able to carry on its share in the struggle.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant.

F. R. Wilson. M.D.

Medical Officer of Health.

13th August, 1941.

